175 mythical figure. St. Henry, on the other hand,
797
[776] is a historical figure, and no doubt suffered the
177
death of a martyr during his missionary excursions. He became the patron saint of Finland, and several churches were built to commemorate his deeds.

The conversion was carried on among the other tribes by monks and native missionaries, but in distant regions paganism prevailed until the days of the reformation. There is some indication that the first attempts to convert the Finns came from the East, from the Greek
[192] Catholic Church; for instance, words like cross, Bible, pagan, and priest have been taken into Finnish from a Slavic language, but this Eastern
175 influence soon waned. At the beginning of the thirteenth century the whole of Russia, except

197 Soviet Union as well as by Finnish emigrants to North America, is strikingly different from most of the idioms of the neighboring peoples. Among these its only close relative is Estonian, and even these two languages are not mutually understandable. After modern linguistic investigation was established, further relatives for Finnish were discovered in Hungarian, Lappish and several split languages in Central and Eastern Russia. Finnish is a descendant of Proto-Finnic, the speech of the ancestors of
• 192 the present Balto-Finnic tribes. During the centuries Finnish has received a great number of loan words of Baltic, Germanic and Slavic origin; the number of specifically Nordic borrowed words is understandably very large. Many of these have been preserved in Finnish

192 in the Proto-Nordic or Proto-Germanic shape; for instance the word kuningas in Finnish today retains exactly the form of the English word king several hundred years ago.

194 The most prominent phonological feature in present-day Finnish is the extensive use of vowels. Finnish is the only language in Europe which uses proportionally more vowels than consonants, 96 consonants for each 100 vowels. Italian, e. g. uses 108 consonants for each 100 vowels. Another characteristic feature is the vowel harmony, i. e. the back vowels a, o, u do not occur in the same word with the corresponding front vowels ä, ö, y. Dipthongs are abundant. The consonant system is simple, but the stops p, t, k and their compounds are subject to so-called consonant gradation, depending on the quality of the following syllable. Except

193 In morphology Finnish makes great use of different case endings and of dervation suffixes which can be affixed one after another to express different notions and modifications. Consequently, Finnish words are generally longer than English ones--but, on the other hand, the same idea can almost always be expressed in fewer
●192 words in Finnish. The vocabulary is abundant, containing an especially large number of descriptive words associated with various natural phenomena.

191 Finnish was first established as a literary
197 language towards the middle of the sixteenth century by the reformer of Finland, Bishop Michael Agricola, who based the standard language on the western dialects which were spoken in the most developed section of

147 children have adopted the speech of their new environment. The Finnish spoken by emigrants abroad reflects the dialect of the localities whence they originally came. Thus, e.g., the American Finns mostly speak an Ostrobothnian dialect, as the majority of them had their homes in this province. The language used in Finnish publications in America is "grandfather's Finnish," a form of speech prevalent in Finland at the beginning of the century.

192 Common Finnish idioms and espressions

Hyvää päivää!	Good day, or How do you do? (Formal)
Päivää!	" " (Less Formal)
(Hyvää) huomenta!	Good morning!
(Hyvää) iltaa!	Good evening!
Hyvää yötä!	Good night! (This greeting always contains both words.)

●193 Terve!	Hello!
Hei!	Hi!
Mitä kuuluu?	What is the news?
Kiitos, hyvää vain.	Thank you, only good.
Kaikki menee päin mäntyyn	Everything goes wrong. (Lit. "Everything goes against the pine tree.")
Miten voit? (informal)	How are you?
Miten voitte? (formal or plural)	How are you?
Anteeksi, mutta voitteko sanoa, milloin Helsingin juna lähtee?	Excuse me, but can you tell me when the train to Helsinki is due to leave?
Juna lähtee kymmenen minuutin kuluttua raiteelta numero kaksi.	The train leaves in ten minutes from track number two.
Miten pitkä matka on lähimpään kaupunkiin?	How far is it to the nearest city?
Milloin olemme perillä?	When do we reach our destination?

● 192	Puhutteko englantia?	Do you speak English?
	Missä on ravintola?	Where is a restaurant?
	Ruokalista, olkaa hyvä!	The menu, please!
	Tassa, olkaa hyvä!	Here it is. (Olkaa hyvä is used as well in giving something as in asking for something.)
	Paljonko tämä maksaa?	How much is this?
	Olen amerikkalainen.	I am an American.
	Onko hän venäläinen?	Is he a Russian?
	Onko hän ryssä?	" " " " (Ryssä is a designation used in everyday speech. It has a degrading connotation and is forbidden in public use.)

SOURCES

113 Cannelin, Knut. Finska språket. [The Finnish Language.] Helsinki: Holger Schildts Förlag, 1932. Pp. 280.